

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6, 11, 13 and 14, which are objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-16 remain pending in the application. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Losey, U.S. Patent No. 1,884,013, and claims 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's disclosure of the prior art (Fig. 1) in view of Losey.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the objected to claim 3, claim 9 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of the objected to claim 11, claim 5 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim 1, and claim 13 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim 9.

Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the above-noted rejection.

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Applicants' incorporations of the features of claim 3 into claim 1, claim 11 into claim 9, claim 1 into claim 5, and claim 9 into claim 13 are made without in any way acquiescing to the propriety of any of the rejection made by the Examiner. Rather these amendments are made only to expedite allowance of the present application.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

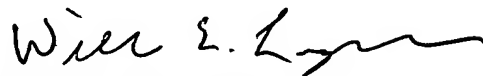
Independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 are now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, and 14-16 dependent thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claim and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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